Groundfish Policy Workplan

Ecosystem Committee
Portland, OR
Feb 2, 2016

Action Needed:

- Recommendations to Council on modifications to existing Groundfish Policy Workplan (Part 1)
  - “Alternatives”
    - Status Quo
    - 2 or more alternatives
Documents (D4)
- Chapt 5 from Supplemental Information Report
- Tables
  - Status Quo
  - Alt 1
  - Alt 2

Plan
- This brief presentation
- Discussion
- Development of recommendation/rationale
Management Policy

- PSEIS
  - Established Council’s Groundfish Management Policy:
    - The Council’s policy is to apply judicious and responsible fisheries management practices, based on sound scientific research and analysis, proactively rather than reactively, to ensure the sustainability of fishery resources and associated ecosystems for the benefit of future, as well as current generations.
    - Nine General Priorities
      - 45 Management Objectives

Priorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prevent Overfishing</th>
<th>Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste</th>
<th>Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promote Sustainable Fisheries and Communities</td>
<td>Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Seabirds and Marine Mammals</td>
<td>Increase Alaska Native &amp; Community Consultation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preserve Food Web</td>
<td>Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Habitat</td>
<td>Improve Data Quality, Monitoring and Enforcement</td>
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</table>
Management Objectives

FMP Obligation

2.2.1 Management Objectives

“Adaptive management requires regular and periodic review. Objectives identified in this policy statement will be reviewed annually by the Council. The Council will also review, modify, eliminate, or consider new issues, as appropriate, to best carry out the goals and objectives of this management policy.”
Existing Strategy
Prevent Overfishing

1. Adopt conservative harvest levels
2. Use existing OY caps.
3. Specify OY as a range.
4. Periodic reviews of F_{ref} and adopt improvements
5. Improve management through species categories (on workplan)

FMP amendments
- revisions to the harvest specifications process (B48/G48)
- moved skates to target category (G63)
- biologically-based specifications for GOA ‘other species’ category (G69, G70)
- amendments to bring FMPs in line with ACL requirements, including moving other species into target category, and creating an ecosystem component category (B95, others)

Regulatory amendments
- Annual specifications for setting harvest levels

Other
- Regular CIE reviews for stock assessments and harvest strategies
- Upcoming amendments to improve management of non-target species
- SSC recommendation to split out BSIPacific cod by subarea

2010

Prevent Overfishing

1. Adopt conservative harvest levels
2. Use existing OY caps.
3. Specify OY as a range.
4. Periodic reviews of F_{ref} and adopt improvements
5. Improve management through species categories (on workplan)

FMP amendments related to this goal statement
- revisions to the harvest specifications process (B48/G48)
- moved skates to target category (G63)
- biologically-based specifications for GOA “other species” category (G69, G70)
- amendments to bring FMPs in line with annual catch limit requirements, including moving other species into target category, and creating an ecosystem component category (B95, G87)
- amendment to include grenadiers in the ecosystem component of the FMPs (B100, G91)
- Restructured observer program reduces bias in catch accounting (B86, G76)
- Provide flexibility for flatfish specifications (B105)

Regulatory amendments related to this goal statement
- Annual specifications for setting harvest levels

Other management actions related to this goal statement
- Regular Center for International Experts reviews for stock assessments and harvest strategies
- Ongoing work on accounting for uncertainty in control rules
- Council policy and ongoing discussion of spatial management for stocks

2015
Problem Statement

- As currently listed, the Workplan’s “Specific Priority Actions”...
  - Overdue for update
  - Limit consideration of all management objectives
    - Preclude inclusion of some current Council actions
    - Do not naturally contribute to annual review

Solution

- As currently listed, the Workplan’s “Specific Priority Actions”...
  - Overdue for update
  - Limit consideration of all management objectives
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Update (status quo)
Solution

- As currently listed, the Workplan’s “Specific Priority Actions”...
  - Overdue for update
  - Limit consideration of management objectives
  - Preclude inclusion of some current Council actions
  - Do not naturally contribute to annual review

Fold into actions (alts 1 and 2)
Solution

As currently listed, the Workplan’s “Specific Priority Actions”...

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Solution

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When you get to a fork in the road, ...take it

- Yogi Berra

(attrib.)

Staff recommendation

- Alt 2
- Staff to develop changes under that format and present to Council at upcoming meeting